(d) the overall strategy of Government for increasing milk production and livestock development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The programmes undertaken by Government for increasing the productivity of cattle and buffaloes include production of superior quality bulls, progeny testing and application of frozen semen and embryo transfer technology.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The strategy consists in enhancing the productivity of livestock and establishing market linkages for the products.

Cattle-feed Plant in Karnataka

7424. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Karnataka has sought financial assistance from the Centre to the extent of Rupees 3 crores towards setting up a Cattle-feed plant at Hassan, Karnataka;

(b) whether the Central Government is aware that such a plant when in operation would cater to the needs to 5 lakh farmer members of 2500 dairy cooperative societies in the districts of Hassan, Coorg and Chickmagalur (Karnataka); and

(c) whether the Central Government would consider favourably the proposal to assist the Hassan Milk Union with an investment of Rupees 3 crores for setting up the plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. This has been indicated in the letter sent by Chief Minister of Karnataka.

(c) It is not possible to assist the Hassan Milk Union as there is no such component under any on-going scheme in the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.

Popularization of Coconut Water

7425. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort has been made by Coconut Development Board to popularise coconut water as beverages;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed in this direction in 1995-96?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The Coconut Development Board has sponsored a research project on preservation and packing of tender coconut water as a beverage with Defence Food Research Laboaratory, Mysore, in February, 1993, at a total cost of Rs.2.76 lakhs. The project is expected to be completed soon.

(c) During 1995-96, the Coconut Development Board proposes to conduct pilot scale production of tender coconut water and consumer acceptability studies, so as to plan marketing strategy.

Development of Coconut Marketing

7426. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plan on State to State basis will be formulated for coconut marketing by Coconut Development Board for 1995-96; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.